

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15878

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, UR
SUBJECT: REPORT OF CLOUD OVER SIBERIA RESEMBLING NUCLEAR
EXPLOSION

1. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR HAS INFORMED US THAT KEVIN NEWMAN
AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, OBSERVED A
MUSHROOM CLOUD SUCH AS MIGHT COME FROM THE EXPLOSION OF A
SMALL NUCLEAR WEAPON FIRED IN THE ATMOSPHERE WHEN HE WAS
FLYING OVER SOVIET SIBERIA IN OTHERWISE CLOUDLESS SKIES
TODAY. MR. NEWMAN SAW THE CLOUD AT 11:00 TODAY MOSCOW
TIME OUT OF A LEFT WINDOW ON JAL FLIGHT 447 WHICH WAS
ON TOKYO-MOSCOW ROUTE. THE AIRCRAFT HAD JUST PASSED THE
YENISEI RIVER. THE CLOUD WAS PHOTOGRAPHED BY AN ITALIAN
PASSENGER SEATED NEAR MR. NEWMAN AND WOULD DOUBTLESS HAVE
BEEN SEEN ALSO BY THE CREW.

2. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR SAID HE WISHED TO CALL THIS TO
OUR ATTENTION SINCE MR. NEWMAN WAS FORMERLY A PROFESSIONAL
MILITARY OFFICER WHO HAS WITNESSED SEVERAL SMALL NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIONS IN AUSTRALIA AND HAS LECTURED TO PROFESSIONAL
AUDIENCES ON THE SUBJECT. HE WAS A LITTLE HESITANT TO
SAY THAT HE HAD DEFINITELY WITNESSED SUCH AN UNLIKELY
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EVENT, BUT SINCE IT CORRESPONDED SO PRECISELY WITH WHAT
HE HAD BEEN FAMILIAR WITH, HE PASSED ON THE INFORMATION.
WHEN HE SAW THE CLOUD, IT HAD BEGUN TO DISPERSE IN THE
WIND AND HE JUDGED THAT IF IT WAS INDEED THE RESULT OF AN
EXPLOSION, THE LATTER WOULD HAVE OCCURRED ABOUT 10:30 A.M.
MOSCOW TIME.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN THE CREDENTIALS OF THE OBSERVER, WE PASS ON THE AUSTRALIAN REPORT AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST, AND ALSO BECAUSE SIMILAR REPORTS FROM OTHER PASSENGERS OR FROM THE JAPANESE AIRCRAFT CREW MAY REACH THE PRESS. IF THE DEPARTMENT CAN SUPPLY ANY COMMENT REGARDING MR. NEWMAN'S SIGHTING WHICH COULD BE PASSED TO THE AUSTRALIANS, SUCH WOULD BE APPRECIATED. TOON

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